



*The Triangle Lake / Hwy 36 corridor in the Oregon Coastal Range – west of Eugene. Timber is harvested on steep, forested terrain. After the areas are clear-cut, herbicides are applied before and after replanting to control the growth of non-commercial plant species. Residents living downslope of replanted areas are concerned that exposure to herbicide application is affecting their health.*

## **EPA and ATSDR support Oregon's Hwy 36 / Triangle Lake pesticide exposure investigation**

In response to resident's credible concerns about herbicide exposure, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are participating in a multi-agency exposure investigation led by the Oregon Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC). The study, which is starting this month, includes sampling of residents' drinking water, locally-grown and consumed food sources, soil, and urine.

EPA recognizes the PARC study as the first step to establish a baseline in the exposure investigation. This first step will help determine whether pre-herbicide application exposures are of concern to public health.

EPA and ATSDR support PARC's study, and are also assessing the need to sample air and surface water, both during and following herbicide applications. EPA and ATSDR believe that sampling during herbicide application is a critical component of the study, as this is when the possibility of exposure to herbicides is the greatest. EPA is exploring sampling techniques and funding options for conducting air sampling.

## What are the roles of State and Federal Agencies?

**Nationally, EPA** registers pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, etc.) and approves pesticide labels. For this study EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest) is providing technical support for the design and sampling, as well as collecting the environmental samples (water, soil, and food). In addition to water, soil, and food, EPA is planning to conduct air sampling to determine if, and to what extent, exposure might be occurring by that route.

Learn more about EPA's pesticide program at [www.epa.gov/gateway/learn/pestchemtox.html](http://www.epa.gov/gateway/learn/pestchemtox.html)

**ATSDR** evaluates the potential for health effects from exposure to chemicals in the environment. For this study ATSDR is providing funding, staff, and technical support for the design, sampling, and analysis of the urine samples.

Learn more about ATSDR's work at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

**Oregon** state agencies developed the exposure study in close collaboration with EPA and ATSDR.

Learn more about Oregon's environmental health assessment program at [www.healthoregon.org/ehap](http://www.healthoregon.org/ehap) or contact Karen Bishop ([Karen.Bishop@state.or.us](mailto:Karen.Bishop@state.or.us)) 971-673-1219

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## Timeline:

February 2010 – Pitchfork Rebellion petitions EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, requesting a spray drift study and protective buffer zones

June 2010 – EPA participates in a listening tour, meeting residents and other stakeholders

September 2010 – EPA requests the assistance of ATSDR to assess residents' health concerns

March 2011 – Dr. Barr and residents announce results of urine analysis show elevated levels of atrazine and 2, 4-D

EPA and ATSDR form a working group to participate in Oregon's multi-agency pesticide exposure investigation

July 2011 – Oregon Health Authority convenes a public meeting to describe the state's study design and to hear resident's concerns. EPA and ATSDR participate in the public meeting with other state agencies

August 2011 – OHA begins recruiting participants in the exposure study